



Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4 NO. 4

WINTER, 1971

LIGHT IN THE LAW LIBRARY

An excellent comprehensive article, **Comment—Transsexualism, Sex Reassignment Surgery and the Law**, by Douglas K. Smith, was published in the *Cornell Law Review*, Vol. 56:963, 1971.

Section headings include: **What Is Sex? Sex Reassignment Surgery—Should It Be Legal? Is Sex Reassignment Surgery Legal?** (This covers court decisions in nine countries.) **Transsexuals and the Criminal Law. Postoperative Change of Civil Status.** (Birth records, passports, etc.) **The Validity of Postoperative Transsexual Marriages.**

Mr. Smith must be commended for a scholarly presentation of the subject not only from the legal aspects but from the current medical and relevant literature. Informative footnotes, citations and bibliography add to the value of this work.

It must be remembered that the legal aspect of transsexualism is in a state of flux and can readily vary at any time in any state. For instance, the liberal policy of the Dept. of State Passport Office has been changed so that passports are issued only in the name given on birth certificate or court decree.

Mr. Smith concludes his paper: "Future judicial response hopefully will be liberal and understanding. The guideposts of legal decision-making in this area should always be what is in the best interests of the transsexual, for those interests and the interests of society are not in conflict."

Reprints of this article are available to professionals on receipt of request enclosing \$1.00 per copy addressed to our Baton Rouge office.

EEF EXPANSION

Requests for information concerning assistance in all professional matters such as arranging medical and academic workshops, presentations, etc., should be addressed to:

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SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Scores of professionals attending the EEF-sponsored International Symposium on Gender Identity at Elsinore, near Copenhagen, in September, and representing many countries and many points of view, heard Dr. Anke Ehrhardt open the program with a greeting from pioneer U.S. specialist in the transsexual field, Harry Benjamin, M.D., in *absentia*.

Dr. Benjamin paid tribute to the "truly pioneering earlier work" of Danish research endocrinologist Dr. Christian Hamburger, psychiatrist Dr. G. Sturup, and surgeons Dr. Dahl-Iverson and Dr. Fogh-Anderson, whose courageous intervention in the case of Christine Jorgensen formed the basis of future clinical work, including his own. Drs. Sturup and Fogh-Anderson attended the symposium and presented papers.

In view of the fact that the possible etiology of transsexualism is as yet unknown and Dr. Benjamin's remarks reflected the tenor of the Symposium as well as significant factors in the current state of research, we have obtained permission to quote the following abstract.

QUOTING DR. BENJAMIN

"It has been customary to describe man as a product of his genetic equipment and his early environmental conditioning, often abbreviated to 'nature and nurture.' More modern researches by biologically oriented psychiatrists, by psychobiologists and brain physiologists have now added a third factor to these fundamental building materials. This third factor is of neuroendocrine nature and is concerned with events taking place during the fetal life, that is to say, the influence of the pregnant mother's health, and especially her endocrine functions on the small growing brain of the fetus. The combination of all three factors with their immensely complicated interplay are now believed to determine the physical and mental characteristics of the future human being.

"I trust that in the lectures to follow, attention will be paid to possible organic causes for the development of the transsexual disorder and not only to the frequently overemphasized psychological ones. If the latter were the only cause, why then is psychotherapy not more helpful than it actually is.

(Continued on next page)

QUOTING DR. BENJAMIN

(Continued)

"From my own clinical observations I feel strongly that prenatal events are at least as essential for sex and gender role disturbance as the postnatal ones.

"Over theorizing, however, and over scientific investigations, we should not forget the patient. He or she will have to be relieved of suffering no matter what the cause.

"There can be no doubt for the objective observer that endocrine therapy as well as surgery have a place in the management of transsexualism. Valuable lives have been salvaged and miserable ineffectual men have become reasonably well adjusted women, and vice versa. In this way, not only an individual, but also society has been served."

(Dr. Benjamin is the author of *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, published by Julian Press, New York.)

RELIGIOUS PAMPHLET

Many transsexuals and their families have expressed a vital concern as to the views of the clergy on the condition and the sex reassignment operation. EEF has canvassed a number of distinguished clergymen of various faiths who agreed to share with us their conscientious reflections on the religious and moral aspects of this question. Their statements, together with a commentary, have been printed in our latest pamphlet, **Religious Aspects of Transsexualism**, now available. In every case, the viewpoints have been enriched by personal experience in counseling transsexuals or members of other sexual minorities.

AN EEF FIRST AT SUNY

New York State University at Stony Brook, Long Island, was the scene of two presentations on transsexualism in October. Under the auspices of the University Health Services Department, EEF film, "I Am Not This Body," introduced by Zelda R. Suplee, was followed by lecture and discussion in a Continuing Education Division class on sex education for teachers and professionals. In the College of Medicine and Allied Health Professions, a similar program was given in a class of para-medics.

GRAND ROUNDS IN MIAMI

Staff and resident physicians of Jackson Memorial Institute of the University of Miami Medical School attended a Grand Rounds presentation on transsexualism in November. EEF Director of Education and Research, Marie Mehl, Ph.D., interviewed two transsexuals and gave an overview of the subject, discussing the psychological and social implications. Institute psychiatrist Dr. Susan Moreno presented the biological aspects. The lively discussion indicated the interest stimulated.

SYMPOSIUM SPOTLIGHTS

. . . . Dr. Ira Pauly, Oregon psychiatrist, commented on emphasis given to male transsexualism compared to female. Dr. Pauly has seen 80 cases in 11 years; 19.7% individuals passed into the male role. He stated a rough estimate of incidence is 1 per 200,000 and that the FTS (female transsexual) responds favorably to treatment and he has found no psychosis from the condition.

. . . . Dr. Jan Walinder, Swedish psychiatrist, whose early research indicated greater frequency of male cases of transsexualism over female, revised his previously published statements. He now feels that the ratio is 1 to 1. The publicity given to the male operation may have delayed the arrival of accurate statistical evaluation.

. . . . Dr. Per Ancherson, Norwegian psychiatrist, reported that now, eight years later, observations of the three male transsexuals who actually had sex reassignment (out of 30 candidates), indicate two of them are happily married. Dr. Ancherson met the third one on his flight from Oslo to Copenhagen. She was a stewardess on the plane!

. . . . The color film on the sex reassignment operation, produced by Drs. Donald Hastings and Colin Markland of the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Gender Identity Team, was presented. It will be screened again at the forthcoming annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons which has a membership of 20,000 surgeons.

. . . . Dr. Arnold Gillespie of the EEF-assisted Gender Identity Unit of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, England, reported on two cases of intensive investigations into possible biological causes of the transsexual condition. Neither case established a theoretical explanation of this nature. Over eighty transsexuals are attending the clinic at present—five surgical procedures took place up to September of this year.

. . . . Dr. George Wolff of Johns Hopkins reported the case of a male-to-female sex reassignment operation performed abroad which was regretted six months later. The individual, who has resumed the masculine role, was given supportive counseling and has achieved realistic acceptance of the condition. Dr. Wolff concurs with Dr. John Money that a two-year preoperative probationary period in the complete female role should take place to prevent uncertain diagnosis or inability to adjust.

. . . . We will continue to report highlights of interest in future issues of the Newsletter. Echoing the comments of Dr. Richard Green of UCLA Gender Identity Unit, who chaired the final session of the Symposium, fascinating new facts about transsexualism were introduced from research around the world, the contributions were promising, productive and stimulating. "We look forward to the next Symposium—with some questions answered—and more questions."

IN THE PRESS

GENETIC FEMALES, TOO

A rapidly growing number of women are seeking sex-change operations, said Dr. Colin Markland, University of Minnesota professor of surgery, at a recent convention of the American Osteopathic Hospital Association in St. Louis. Two women are under consideration for the operation by the University of Minnesota Gender Identity Team of surgeons, psychiatrists and other specialists, which has participated in 25 sex-change operations on men in the last five years.

Dr. Markland reported that female sex-change operations have been performed at Johns Hopkins University and one in the Stanford University program. The sex change involves hormone treatment to eliminate secondary female characteristics, breast surgery, usually removal of the ovaries and uterus, and construction of a penis from the skin of the abdominal wall. "There is no way to create erectile tissue," Markland said, "the penis is strictly cosmetic."

He also reported that out of 25 men who had the operation in Minnesota, spurred by society's rejection of their desire to be women since childhood, nine have married in their new role, one divorced and one separated.

REDRESS IN MIAMI

A Miami ordinance forbidding any person to wear the clothing of the opposite sex was ruled unconstitutional recently by a Circuit Court Judge as "unduly vague and indefinite."

"Besides," said the judge, "while the Miami law may be aimed at correcting dangerous situations, it fails to say just what criminal conduct it is seeking to curtail."

His decision grew out of a Criminal Court case in which the defendant had been arrested on the street while wearing a woman's nylon blouse, slacks, a woman's wig and carrying a purse.

The efforts of the accused to have the charge dropped because the city statute was unconstitutional failed and the judge was ruling on his appeal.

WARNING

Report comes from New Orleans that the entertainer known as "Alexandra the Great" recently died of silicone poisoning as a result of having her breasts "blown up" to a very large size. It was thought that the silicone had affected the kidneys.

This would indicate the hazard of silicone injections which are known to migrate. However, it has never been established conclusively that taking hormones moderately is a cause of cancer.

JOHNS HOPKINS JOTTINGS

. . . . The latest sex-reassignment operation performed in the Gender Identity Clinic was a female-to-male who underwent the full team evaluation and operative stages including phalloplasty.

. . . . A filming of the male-to-female sex-reassignment operation, produced by plastic surgeon Howard W. Jones, Jr., was viewed by the Gender Identity Committee in September. This film was also shown at the recent International Symposium on Gender Identity in Denmark.

. . . . Dr. John Money conducted a 3-day post-doctoral institute, **Post-doctoral Sex Education for Psychologists**, at the end of August preceding the American Psychological Association meeting in Washington, D.C. He immediately left for his third annual trip to Arnhem Land, Australia, to continue his research in ethnopsychology there.

. . . . Dr. Money also attended a meeting on human sexuality in mental retardation called by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, held in Hot Springs in November. Some of the sessions were chaired by Robert W. Deisher, M.D., whose work with the Seattle Counseling Service is assisted by EEF.

. . . . In October, Dr. Money lectured at the Medical School at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, on gender identity in intersexuality and transsexualism.

CROSS-DRESSING

An individual who is under medical treatment for transexualism may apply for an Identification Card explaining the cross-dress as a pre-requisite to sex-reassignment surgery, by writing our Baton Rouge office. However, it must be borne in mind that this I.D. card will in no way mitigate the consequences incurred by overt or intended illegal activity of any sort.

ONE NOTE

Five senior and graduate students in clinical psychology at a Southern California state college are taking courses for college credit under EEF grants at ONE Institute. The three men and two women students are enrolled for four hours a week in courses: "Introduction to Homophile Studies" and "Homophile Life Styles."

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED — L.A.

If you wish to function in your new gender role in a supportive, hospitable atmosphere, working as a typist or a file clerk, your volunteer help will be welcomed at ONE Institute, 2256 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles. (213) 735-5252.

ACUPUNCTURE

With the recent capture of U.S. headlines and imagination by the no longer controversial subject of acupuncture (special use of needles in healing) it is interesting to note that in keeping with our policy "to assist in areas where human potential is limited by physical, mental or social conditions, or where scope of research is too new, controversial or imaginative to encourage traditionally oriented support," one of the first grants of the Erickson Educational Foundation was to William Gutman, M.D., of New York City, who has been in the practice of acupuncture there for over ten years.

Dr. Gutman has written the introduction to the recently published book, "Chinese Art of Healing"

by Stephen Palos (Herder & Herder, New York), presenting some of the scientific highlights.

Acupuncture is widely accepted by medical doctors in France, where Dr. Gutman began his studies in 1947, as it is in Germany, Switzerland, USSR, China, Japan, etc. Associated with a Chinese MD who has had years of study and hospital practice in China in traditional medicine, Dr. Gutman has been interviewed recently on TV and radio and states that acupuncture has proven effective in almost the entire field of medicine except for TB, cancer and surgery, although he knows of an acute appendicitis case which was treated successfully. Many conditions, some not amenable to the usual type of treatment, have been cured with no side effects.

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